

PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Docket No.: SCHARMÜLLER-3

In re Application of:)
JOSEF SCHARMÜLLER)
Int. Appl. No.: PCT/AT2004/000365)
Int. Filing Date: October 22, 2004)
For: HIGH-LOAD DRAWBAR EYE)

FIRST PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

SIR:

Preliminary to the first Official Action in the above-entitled application, please amend the application as follows.

The Commissioner is hereby also authorized to charge any fees which may be required during the pendency of this application, including any patent application processing fees under 37 C.F.R. 1.17, and any filing fees under 37 C.F.R. 1.16, including presentation of extra claims, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No: 06-0502.

Please amend the above-entitled application as follows:

**AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW
CHANGES MADE**

Change the title to read --HIGH-LOAD DRAWBAR EYE--.

Before paragraph [0001], add the heading --BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION--.

Before paragraph [0003], add the heading --SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION--.

Before paragraph [0018], add the heading --BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWING--.

Before paragraph [0021], add the heading --DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS--.

Page 8, after the heading "CLAIMS" and before the first claim add --What is claimed is:--.

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES
MADE, AND LISTING OF ALL CLAIMS WITH PROPER IDENTIFIERS**

1.-13. (Canceled)

14. (New) A high-load drawbar eye, comprising:

a hitch flange for attachment to a towed vehicle;

a hitch socket constructed to receive a matching hitch ball and having an open rim, said hitch socket having a collar;

a hitch arm connecting the hitch socket to the hitch flange; and

a hold-down device cooperating with the hitch socket and including a semicircular fork of a configuration to match a shape of the collar.

15. (New) The drawbar eye of claim 14, wherein the hitch socket defines a center axis, and the hitch arm defines a longitudinal axis, said center axis and said longitudinal axis extending at an angle ranging between approximately 50° and approximately 80° relative to one another.

16. (New) The drawbar eye of claim 15, wherein the angle ranges between 60° and 70°.

17. (New) The drawbar eye of claim 14, wherein, as viewed in operating position, the hold-down device is movably supported on a bottom side of the hitch arm.

18. (New) The drawbar eye of claim 14, wherein the collar has a recess, and the fork has a projection of a configuration complementing the recess.

19. (New) The drawbar eye of claim 14, further comprising an actuating apparatus for operating the hold-down device.

20. (New) The drawbar eye of claim 19, wherein the actuating apparatus includes a toggle joint.
21. (New) The drawbar eye of claim 19, wherein the actuating apparatus includes an eccentric lever.
22. (New) The drawbar eye of claim 19, wherein the actuating apparatus includes a manual lever.
23. (New) The drawbar eye of claim 19, wherein the actuating apparatus includes a pneumatic and/or hydraulic cylinder.
24. (New) The drawbar eye of claim 14, wherein the hitch socket is substantially hemispherical in shape, and the hold-down device is arranged in a region of the hitch socket having a greatest diameter.
25. (New) The drawbar eye of claim 14, wherein the hitch ball has a diameter and includes a portion which is constructed for reception by the hitch socket and the hold-down device, said portion being greater in size than a hemisphere sized to correspond to the diameter of the hitch ball, thereby realizing a substantially flat support area of the portion of the hitch ball by the hitch socket and the hold-down device.
26. (New) A high-load drawbar eye, comprising:
 - a hitch flange for attachment to a towed vehicle;
 - a hitch socket constructed to receive a matching hitch ball and having an open rim, said hitch socket defining a center axis;
 - a hitch arm defining a longitudinal axis and connecting the hitch socket to the hitch flange; and
 - a hold-down device cooperating with the hitch socket.

wherein the center axis of the hitch socket and the longitudinal axis of the hitch arm extend at an angle ranging between approximately 50° and approximately 80° relative to one another.